

# Know It's NIOSH Approved

Judi Coyne, MBA, MA, CGMP and Jackie Krah, MA, CGMP  
National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, National Personal Protective Technology Laboratory

## BACKGROUND

Through various sources, NIOSH became aware of instances of misleading advertising, counterfeit respirators, and false claims of NIOSH certification for filtering facepiece respirators.

Proper use of appropriate respiratory protection in environments where it is necessary – and knowing how to use it safely and effectively – is a vital line of defense against inhalation of harmful airborne particles. Equally as vital is taking a proactive role in protecting one's health and safety.

NIOSH-approved N95 filtering face piece respirators are designed specifically to provide respiratory protection with a tight seal against the wearer's face and a proven filtration efficiency for airborne particles.

## OBJECTIVES

- Increase awareness of NIOSH-approved respirators
- Increase awareness of misleading advertising, counterfeit respirators, and false claims of NIOSH certification
- Outline differences in types of respiratory and facial protection devices used in healthcare
  - NIOSH-approved filtering facepiece respirators
  - NIOSH-approved and FDA-cleared Surgical N95 Respirators
  - Surgical Masks
- Explain what NIOSH-approval constitutes
- Define markings that identify a filtering facepiece respirator as having NIOSH-approval
- Provide an accessible list of NIOSH-approved respirators
- Provide an accessible list of products that have had approval revoked as well as false claims on the market

## METHODS

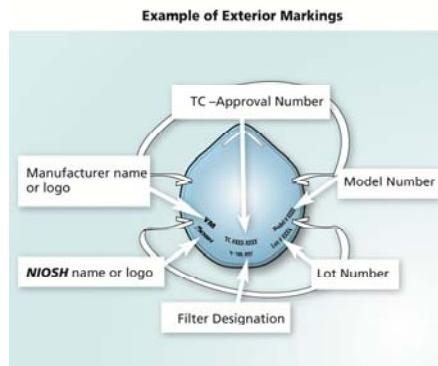
- Public service campaign enacted
- Know it's NIOSH approved logo established
- Fact sheet created
- <http://Knowits.niosh.gov> website created
- List of revoked / rescinded NIOSH-approved respirators expanded to include model numbers and private label names



## RESULTS

- OSHA video developed to support public information campaign [http://www.osha.gov/video/respiratory\\_protection/index.html](http://www.osha.gov/video/respiratory_protection/index.html)
- Informational brochure developed to inform respirator users of misleading advertising and counterfeit products
- Banner stand will make its debut at the 2012 Association of Perioperative Registered Nurses (AORN) Conference during which time NPPTL staff will have the opportunity to speak with nurses who use respiratory protection on a daily basis. In addition, OSHA video will be shown at the NIOSH exhibit during the AORN conference.
- Efforts to disseminate information are ongoing

## CONCLUSIONS



The informational products created address the concerns relative to respirator users awareness of misleading advertising, counterfeit products being sold, and false claims of NIOSH-certification will be expanded and disseminated through various sources including conferences, partners, and the NIOSH website

*Disclaimer: The findings and conclusions in this poster have not been formally disseminated by the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health and should not be construed to represent any agency determination or policy*